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Timing Important 21

Editor, Tribune: Regretting deeply the slugging that Americans, in their immaturity, indulge in at election time, I regret equally your Frank Kent-type of editorial on Oct. 19.

The timing of events is important. Until the first whistle-stop President Truman had maintained a notably dignified approach to the campaign.

On Sept. 4 Eisenhower started a blistering denunciation of Truman, his intelligence, his character, his competence, his judgment. Such terms as "rotten from top to bottom," "utterly corrupt," "stumble, bumble and fall," "incompetent" and "irresponsible" poured from his lips and those of minor denouncers Nixon, Dirksen, Taft, Jenner and Cain—all Eisenhower supporters and acceptable to the general.

If it was undignified for Truman to answer these exaggerations, it would have been craven of him to keep quiet. He was the "top" in that "top to bottom" denunciation. He, who had assigned to Eisenhower, Marshall, Bedell Smith, Bradley and MacArthur positions of honor and responsibility, which they executed honorably and effectively, was denounced as incompetent, stumbling and bumbling by the man he most signally honored and trusted.

Why did the great unifier start the ugly business? Does the end justify the means? Where is that moral crusade he promised?

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